



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



"Serving the People of Prince George's County, Maryland"

2009 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

2009 Annual Legislative Report

Message from the Honorable Marilyn M. Bland, 2009 Legislative Year Chairperson

“To whom much is given, much is required.” With this sentiment as my guide, I have accepted the charge to lead this team of dedicated, intelligent, compassionate, and resourceful advocates for Prince George’s County and her citizens in the 2009 Legislative Year!

America cast a vote for change when Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States of America. As the electorate, we believe that President Obama stands for *Change that Meets Our Challenges*. What is this Change? This Change is not about any one person. This Change is a movement that encompasses civic participation, accountability, and forward thinking. This Change is going to require each of us to roll up our sleeves and simply do the work.

First on the list is our declining economy, a national concern, and perhaps Prince George’s County’s greatest challenge. As we work to address our fiscal issues, I have asked Council Member Camille Exum to continue in her role in this effort with the budget. People are losing their homes and jobs; retirement funds are disappearing; businesses are going bankrupt; infrastructure is deteriorating; and education is becoming unaffordable and unattainable for many. Prince George’s County faces additional challenges, including aging school buildings in need of repair or replacement; engaging our youth in productive activities; and the ill effects of domestic violence. Like our nation, Prince George’s County must confront our challenges head on.

With each challenge comes opportunity—an opportunity to become a more efficient and effective government; to be creative, innovative, and industrious as we work to meet the needs of our citizens and quite frankly, do more with less. General George S. Patton once said, “Accept the challenge so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory.” It will take hard work. Yet, we as a committed County Council accept the challenge to lead. We will be deliberate and make a conscience effort to legislate the Change to Meet Our Challenges.

We will do this as a team. In the words of Andrew Carnegie, “Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision; the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” My partnership and team efforts begin with my Vice-Chairman, the honorable and talented Thomas E. Dernoga. Because of his expertise and tenacity, I have asked him to lead efforts to help find creative, new ways to partner with the State and other stakeholders as we attempt to advance the vast infrastructure needs upon which our future economic viability lies. We will receive input from our Youth Commissioners, working alongside the Council to advocate for the youth of this County.



This Council has everything it takes to meet and conquer our challenges. We have the experience, innovation, business sense, sensitivity, flexibility, and yes, the determination. I am humbled and excited about the opportunity and possibilities stemming from the Change that Meets Our Challenges. I urge every Prince Georgian to join us in this effort. Together we shall not fail. For if God be for us, who can be against us?

The work begins.

Sincerely,

Marilynn M. Bland
Chairperson, 2009 Legislative Year

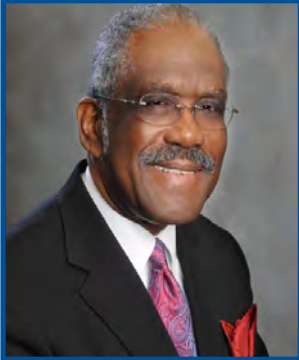
2009 Prince George’s County Council Members



Marilynn M. Bland, Chairperson
District 9



Eric Olson
District 3



Samuel H. Dean
District 6



Thomas E. Dernoga, Vice-Chair
District 1



Ingrid M. Turner
District 4



Camille A. Exum
District 7



Will Campos
District 2



Andrea Harrison
District 5



Tony Knotts
District 8

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Presenting the newly elected 2009 Prince George's County Council: in front: Council Chairperson Marilynn M. Bland (D) District 9 and Council Vice-Chair Thomas Dernoga (D) District 1. Standing left to right are Council Members Will Campos, District 2; Eric Olson, District 3; Ingrid Turner, District 4; Samuel Dean, District 6; Andrea Harrison, District 5; Camille Exum, District 7; and Tony Knotts, District 8.

Legislative Initiatives

County Council Core Values and Guiding Principles

CORE VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

All legislative powers of the Prince George's County Council, Maryland, are vested in the Prince George's County Council.

The County Council sits as the District Council on matters of zoning and land use policy, and as the Board of Health to govern and guide health policy.

The Prince George's County Council adheres to a set of Core Values which define us as a legislative body, and as individual Council Members. Our Core Values pledge this County Council to foster partnerships and encourage public involvement with our citizens, community leaders, and other elected officials. Our values require openness, honesty, and efficiency in every deliberative process, and an unbiased approach to the needs of the County as a whole.

We are guided in our decision-making by these Core Values and the principles of Creative Problem-Solving; Fiscal Responsibility and Stewardship; Teamwork through Shared Leadership; and Professionalism.

Creative Problem-Solving

The Council will strive to find creative solutions to issues and concerns in order to enhance the quality of life for Prince George's County citizens and residents of both present and future generations.

Fiscal Responsibility and Stewardship

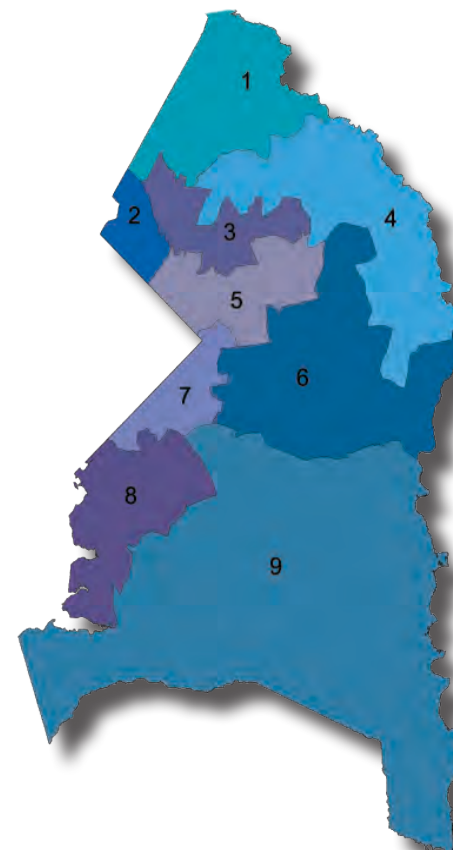
The Council bears fiduciary responsibility for stewardship of the County's resources. The Council will support efforts to ensure County tax dollars are spent in a prudent and efficient manner.

Teamwork Through Shared Leadership

The Council operates as a team in a spirit of shared leadership, and will resist any effort to usurp its collective, statutory authority. Council Members represent Prince George's County as a whole and make decisions considering first the good of the County, and second, the good of their individual geographic districts and the constituents of those districts.

Professionalism

The Council will endeavor to work with integrity and professionalism in a collaborative and cooperative manner with local, state and federal governmental branches or entities as well as elected and appointed officials from neighboring jurisdictions.



Prince George's County, Maryland is divided into nine Council districts. The boundaries of each Council district are established pursuant to the provisions of the Prince George's County Charter (Section 305). Council district boundaries were reestablished in 1982 and by Charter, are redistricted every tenth year thereafter. On November 11, 2001, the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, approved the Councilmanic Redistricting Plan, prepared by the Prince George's County Redistricting Commission pursuant to Section 305 of the Prince George's County Charter. For more information on your Council district, visit www.princegeorgescounty.gov and click on Legislative Branch or call 301.952.3700.

Marilynn M. Bland, *Chair*,

Represents Councilmanic District Nine which includes Accokeek, Andrews Air Force Base, Aquasco, Baden, Brandywine, Camp Springs, Cheltenham, Clinton, Croom, Eagle Harbor, Fort Washington, Piscataway, Upper Marlboro.

Thomas E. Dernoga, *Vice-Chair*

Represents Councilmanic District One which includes Adelphi, Beltsville, Calverton, College Park, Laurel, Montpelier, South Laurel, Vansville and West Laurel.

Will Campos

Represents Councilmanic District Two which includes Adelphi, Avondale, Brentwood, Carole Highlands, Chillum, Green Meadows, Hyattsville, Langley Park, Lewisdale, Mount Rainier and North Brentwood.

Eric Olson

Represents Councilmanic District Three which comprises the areas of Beacon Heights, Berwyn Heights, College Park, East Pines, Glenn Dale, Glenridge, Landover Hills, Lanham, New Carrollton, Riverdale Heights and Hills, Riverdale Park, Seabrook, Templeton Knolls, University Park, West Lanham Hills, and Woodlawn.

Ingrid M. Turner

Represents Councilmanic District Four which includes Bowie, Glenn Dale, Greenbelt, Westchester Park, parts of Lanham-Seabrook and Upper Marlboro.

Andrea Harrison

Represents Councilmanic District Five which includes Bladensburg, Cheverly, Edmonston, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Landover, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Mitchellville.

Samuel H. Dean

Represents Councilmanic District Six which includes South Bowie, Capitol Heights, District Heights, Forestville, Kettering, Largo, Mitchellville, and Upper Marlboro.

Camille Exum

Represents Councilmanic District Seven which comprises the areas of District Heights, Bradbury/Boulevard Heights, Capitol Heights, Hillcrest Heights, Marlow Heights, Seat Pleasant and Suitland.

Tony Knotts

Represents Councilmanic District Eight which includes Camp Springs, Clinton, Forest Heights, Fort Washington, Glass Manor, Marlow Heights, Oxon Hill, and Temple Hills.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2009 LEGISLATIVE YEAR

“Teamwork Through Shared Leadership” Legislative Year 2009 Committee Summary

The Council Committees are the working arm of the County Council. All matters concerning Bills or Resolutions are directed by the Chair to one of five standing committees established by the County Council Rules of Procedure, or by the Council sitting as the Committee of the Whole (COW). The standing committees include Health, Education and Human Services (HEHS); Planning, Zoning and Economic Development (PZED); Public Safety and Fiscal Management (PSFM); Transportation, Housing, and the Environment (THE); and Rules and General Assembly.

The County Council, as the Fiscal Authority of Prince George's County, also conducts its annual Budget Review process through the committee structure, with each committee conducting budget oversight for the departments and agencies assigned.

Council Chairperson Marilynn Bland expressed deep appreciation to each of her colleagues who served various committees, for their “exceptional leadership and hard work.” Together, we have met tremendous challenges with tremendous accomplishments.”



Committee in 2027

Members of the Council serve on a number of standing Committee's which meet regularly to review the progress, development and budget information of various County agencies. Sessions are frequently held in room 2027 of the County Administration Building and are open to the public.



TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT (THE)

Thomas E. Dernoga, Chair
Ingrid M. Turner, Vice-Chair

Will A. Campos
Andrea Harrison
Ingrid M. Turner

PUBLIC SAFETY AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT (PSFM)

Camille A. Exum, Chair
Tony Knotts, Vice-Chair

Marilynn M. Bland
Will A. Campos
Ingrid M. Turner

RULES, GENERAL ASSEMBLY & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Marilynn M. Bland, Chair
Thomas E. Dernoga, Vice-Chair

HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES (HEHS)

Andrea C. Harrison, Chair
Will A. Campos, Vice-Chair

Eric C. Olson
Thomas E. Dernoga
Camille A. Exum

PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (PZED)

Samuel H. Dean, Chair
Eric C. Olson, Vice-Chair

Marilynn M. Bland
Thomas E. Dernoga
Camille A. Exum

Health, Education and Human Services Committee

Under the most difficult fiscal constraints faced globally, nationally, and throughout the State of Maryland and Prince George's County, the Council made significant efforts to maintain school system and County core services. Following HEHS Committee and staff reviews, the Council approved a \$1.6 Billion Board of Education Budget, allocating 62.8% of County revenues to the Board of Education. The Council adopted an FY 2010 spending plan that overall funded the Board of Education requested budget, and met the State-mandated Maintenance of Effort formula for the County's contribution to education funding.

Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee

The Council worked through the PZED Committee to approve seven long-range, comprehensive zoning proposals for each area of Prince George's County. This work included the Subregion 5 and 6 Master Plans, comprising the southern portion of the County; the Port Towns; Marlboro Pike; the Landover Gateway Sector Plans and Sectional Map Amendments in the central region; the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Sector Plan in the northern portion; and the Countywide Master Plan of Transportation to ensure that land use recommendations are consistent with County transportation

needs. Each plan establishes a roadmap for land use that promotes livable communities while meeting the diverse needs of our communities. In addition, PZED worked to enact legislation to regulate Adult Book and Video stores; promote the County's rich agricultural heritage and stimulate the local economy through tourism and farm-based activities, including farm wineries and bed and breakfast inns; and regulate check-cashing businesses.

Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee

The PSFM Committee accomplished great work on the issues around taxicab operations and service in the County. The Council, through the work of the PSFM, established a Taxicab Task Force to review and evaluate the taxicab operations and their impact upon County residents; and the issues presented by the taxicab drivers. The Task Force will also make recommendations for appropriate amendments to the County Code and regulations.

Transportation, Housing and the Environment Committee

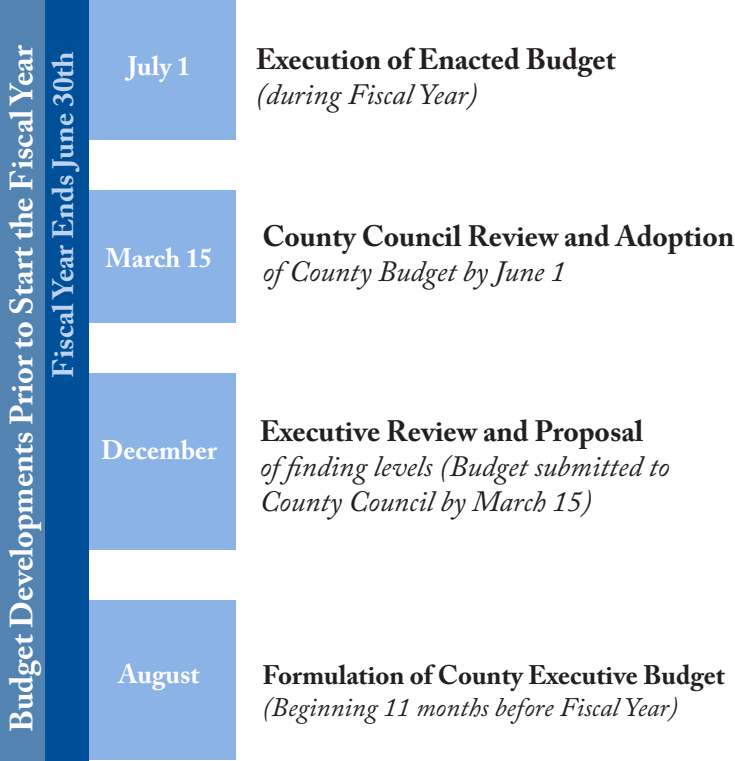
The THE Committee worked hard to get speed cameras around our school zones implemented; addressed towing industry concerns and the growing number of foreclosures and their impact on the economy; and encouraged the use of environmentally

friendly and reusable bags rather than plastic. The Council, through the work of THE, enacted legislation to curb the proliferation of consumable goods, that were being re-sold by Secondhand and Pawn Dealers. This practice places the health and safety of the public at risk.

Rules and General Assembly Committee

Chairperson Bland and Vice-Chair Dernoga, worked together with Council Members and the State Legislature to address a wide range of issues directly impacting the citizens and residents of Prince George's County, including healthcare, education, public safety and the environment. It was a challenging year in the Maryland General Assembly for Prince George's County. Even though the County sustained significant funding cuts from the State, education received increases under the FY' 2010 State budget approved by the General Assembly. A local bi-county bill was also passed by the General Assembly, authorizing the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to transfer \$60 million over two years (\$30 million in FY' 2010 and FY' 2011) to Prince George's County from their reserves to offset State budget reductions to avoid service cuts to County residents.

Major Steps in the Budget Process



County Council Review and Adoption:

During April and May, County Council staff review the Proposed Capital Budget and Program with staff from the Office of Management and Budget and departmental representatives. The County Council is required to hold two public hearings on the Proposed Operating Budget and the Proposed Capital Budget. The Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, completes its review of the Capital Budget and Program by mid-May. The Council must adopt the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance before June 1. Subsequently, it submits the Ordinance to the County Executive for signature. The Proposed Capital Budget takes effect on July 1, the first day of the new Fiscal Year.

Chairperson Bland’s FY’10 Budget Message “Change that Meets Our Challenges”

In accordance with the County Charter, and in acknowledgement of the depth of the fiscal challenges we face in this budget year, I am pleased to say that this Council has completed an arduous budget review process, and today adopts a \$2.6 billion Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010. This budget reflects significant work by all involved in this year’s discussions and negotiations. There were many tough decisions that had to be made in order to adopt this spending plan.

The current global economic crisis is certainly among the worst most of us can remember. The financial difficulties plaguing our nation, the state of Maryland and other municipalities are perhaps Prince George’s County’s greatest challenge. Clearly, we have conducted this year’s budget process while facing the most adverse financial conditions in the history of the County and Charter Government. The deterioration of the housing market and associated weakening of other segments of the economy have significantly impacted the County’s revenue outlook.

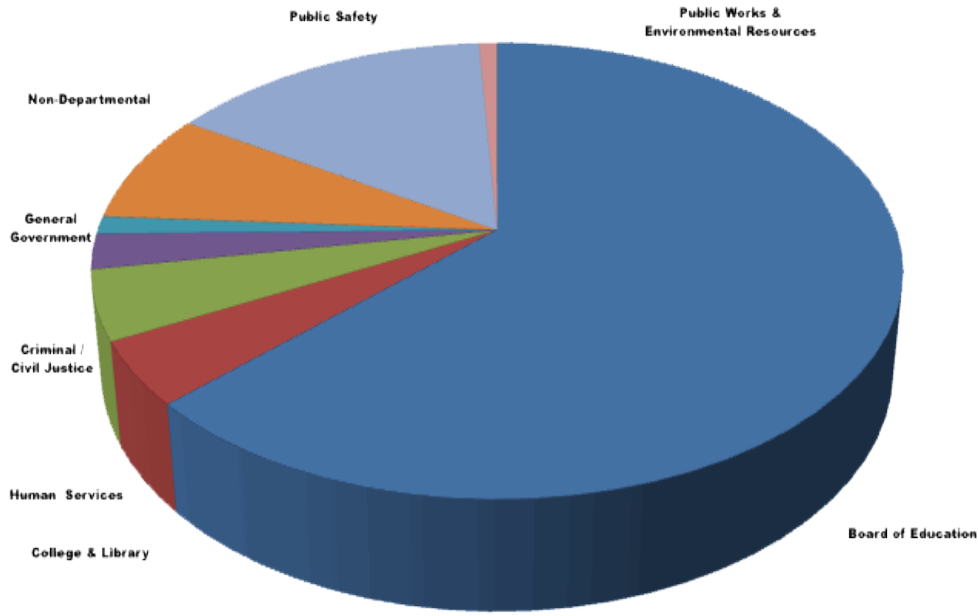
In Fiscal Year 2009, Prince George’s County lost \$70 million in Transfer Taxes alone. In addition, the County must navigate this fiscal crisis as the only jurisdiction in the State with a property tax rate cap—TRIM. Under TRIM, the County is prohibited from raising property taxes. Assessment increases are limited, to 5-percent or less, if they occur at all. All other taxes or fees require the approval of voters via referendum. In many areas of our budget, we had to deal with significant funding cuts from the State, and by all indications, those revenues are continuing to shrink. The State is anticipating a two-billion-dollar deficit in each of the next four budget cycles.

As in every budget this Council has passed, education and public safety remain the County’s priorities, garnering the lion’s share of County revenues—nearly 87-percent. The County’s elected leaders are to be commended for working together to adopt a balanced budget. Important sacrifices were made in order to balance the budget, and the County Executive has warned that there may be more on the horizon. The challenges presented in the assembly and passage of this budget are only the beginning of the many challenges that await us. Difficult times present opportunity for our County—opportunity for better, more effective and efficient government.

President John F. Kennedy once noted: “The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word crisis. One brush stroke stands for danger, and the other for opportunity. In a crisis, we must be aware of the danger, but recognize

Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Highlights

FY 2010 General Fund Expenditures



Total \$2,600,758,700

The approved FY 2010 General Fund budget is \$2,600,758,700, which represents a decrease of \$72.6 million or 2.7% below the FY 2009 approved budget.

Due to the declining housing market, significant reductions in State aid and the slowing economy, the approved FY 2010 General Fund Budget represents a significant decline in expenditures as a result of an unprecedented decline in revenue.

The County’s six year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2010 through FY 2015 totals \$2.08 billion with the highest level of funding devoted to school construction projects. The FY 2010 capital budget totals \$371.3 million.

The County will meet its Charter mandated requirement to maintain a contingency reserve equal to 5% of the general fund budget. In addition, the approved budget will maintain a 2% operating reserve.

the opportunity.” We must continue to be vigilant, keeping a watchful eye on all revenues and expenditures throughout the year, while fine-tuning as required. The spirit of cooperation that has been forged among our local leaders in these challenging times shows that in difficult times we can come together as a team. But we cannot stop here. We must keep this spirit of cooperation alive and continue our teamwork to meet the next challenges that are certain to come our way.

We have all had to tighten our belts in this budget process, and we will continue to do everything we can to improve our economy. Despite the challenges, we will keep our level of service and morale high. I know I speak for every Member of this Council when I extend our most sincere expression of gratitude to the County’s most important asset—our employees—for their sacrifices over the past year, and the ones they will make during the coming year.

I must take a moment to recognize the courageous leadership of our County Executive Jack Johnson. Throughout this process, our County Executive has been a tremendous advocate for the citizens of this great County, and a devoted partner guiding us along this very difficult journey. Thank you, Mr. County Executive.

There has been a truly collaborative effort in assembling this budget. As we move forward, this Council will remain committed to working with one another, all elected and government officials, and our constituents, to address the ongoing challenges, and make the tough decisions that lie ahead. I could not be more proud to serve alongside my Council colleagues than I have been throughout this budget process. When I accepted this Gavel of Leadership, I said this Council has everything it takes to meet and conquer our challenges—the experience, the innovation, the business sense, the sensitivity, the flexibility, and yes, the determination. I applaud this assembly of legislators, who in the face of a terrible financial storm, have acted responsibly and responsively on behalf of the citizens we serve.

Vice-Chairman Tom Dernoga, as my co-leader on this Council, I appreciate your partnership, expertise, and tenacity. Thank you. The fiscal stresses we face in Prince George’s County are significant and evolving, but we have a budget in place that ensures that our priorities are met, and essential services are funded adequately. I remain humbled and excited about the challenges we have been able to overcome because we recognized the need for change. The spirit of cooperation and our willingness to sacrifice must continue in order to maintain economic stability. This County Council is committed. Thank you. God bless you all. And God bless Prince George’s County.

2009 Proclamations



A special proclamation was presented to the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department recognizing their "Outstanding Public Service" to the county's residents. Members of the Fire/EMS Department on hand to receive the proclamation were Derian Whitted, Wesley Auld, Dave Wilson and Dale Giampetroni.

Below: Mr. Patrick Ellis, host of WHUR's "Sunday Morning Gospel" was presented a proclamation for 30 years of exemplary on-air service from Council Member Andrea Harrison, (D) District 5. Mr. Ellis has been a member of the WHUR family for 37 years and is a resident of Mitchellville, MD.



Proclamation presented to **Dr. Eugene Williams, Sr.** recognizing his dedication to the "Communities" through the services he provides to churches, schools and disadvantaged students.

Proclamation presented to **Michael McLaughlin** recognizing his as the 2008 "Volunteer of the Year" for the Arc of Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to the **Posse Foundation, Inc.**, recognizing their Scholastic Achievements and National initiatives.

Proclamation presented to **LJ Hoes** recognizing him for being selected by the Baltimore Orioles

Joint Proclamation presented to **Faviola Donato-Galindo**, Community Education Specialist, and **Nathan Fosset**, Volunteer of the Transplant Consortium, recognizing April 2009 as "Donate Life Month" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to **Boy Scout Troop #403** recognizing their "Exemplary Community Service" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to Fire Lieutenant **Douglas P. Sudick** recognized for being named "Maryland State Fire Fighter of the Year".

Proclamation presented to **David Murray** student of Eleanor Roosevelt High School for being recognized as the Governor's nomination for the student seat on the State Board.

Proclamation recognizing the Month of April, 2009 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Autism Awareness Month.

Proclamation presented to **Ms. Anita E. Rosser** for being named the "First African American Lieutenant Colonel/Office of the Chief" Prince George's County Police Department in Prince George's County.

Joint Proclamation presented to **Mr. John Neville**, Volunteer, Chairman of CCC, recognizing April 2009 as "Citizens Concerned for a Cleaner County/Keep Prince George's County Beautiful Month".

Joint Proclamation presented to the **Department of Corrections** for being the "32nd Annual Prince George's County Public Safety Award Recipient".

Proclamation presented to the **Eleanor Roosevelt High School Girls Basketball Team** for winning their "5th Consecutive Maryland State 4A Championship" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to the **Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School Coaches** for their "Varsity Regional Wins in Football and Basketball".

Certificates presented to **Mr. O. J. Johnson**, Varsity Basketball Coach, and **Mr. Dalawn Parrish**, Varsity Football Coach, for being named "2009 Coaches of the Year" in Prince George's County.

Certificates presented to **Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr.** High School Basketball and Football Teams for their "Varsity Regional Wins."

Joint Proclamation presented to **Mr. Charles W. Wilson**, Director, Department of Environment Resources, recognizing June 2009 as "Flood Awareness Month" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to **Mr. Patrick Ellis** for his "30 Years of On-Air Service".

Proclamation presented to **Ms. Delores Ann Washington** for her book "Go Home and Love your Family, The ABC's of Developing Stronger Families".

Proclamation presented to **Ms. Carolyn Washington** for her commitment to "Sisters4Sisters, Inc." and the families in Prince George's County.

In Recognition



Members of the Posse Foundation, Inc., were presented with a proclamation from Council Member Ingrid Turner in recognition of their Scholastic Achievements and National initiatives. Posse was founded in 1989 and spotlights high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential possibly overlooked during the traditional college selection process. Each of the nine students selected received a scholarship.

LEFT: Council Member Ingrid M. Turner presented a proclamation to Ms. Delores Ann Washington in recognition of her book, "Go Home and Love Your Family", The ABC's of Developing Stronger Families. Ms. Washington was an educator for over 34 years, including 20 years in the Prince George's County, Maryland school system.



RIGHT: Ms. Carolyn Washington was the recipient of a proclamation from Council Member Marilynn Bland for her commitment to "Sisters4Sisters, Inc", and the families in Prince George's County. Sisters4Sisters is a national non-profit dedicated to empowering women and girls through personal and professional development workshops and training.

Proclamation presented to **Ms. Melinda Lee**, Principal, recognizing Laurel Elementary School as a "Maryland Green School" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented recognizing **Hispanic Heritage Month**.

Joint Proclamation presented to **The Gorgeous Prince George's Day Committee** recognizing October 17, 2009 as "Gorgeous Prince George's Day" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to **Destiny Welch** recognizing her organization "A Gift from an Angel".

Proclamation for retiring Legislative Branch Employee **Marilyn Kingman-Price**.

Proclamation presented to **Business and Professional Women's Foundation of Prince George's County** recognizing October 18-24, 2009 as "National Business Women's Week" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to **Ms. Debra Pierce** on being named BPW Foundation's 2009 "Woman of the Year" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to the **Maryland Crime Victim's Resource Center, Inc.**, on being named BPW Foundation's 2009 "Employer of the Year" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to **Ms. Rachel Miller** on being named 2009 "Miss Maryland Agriculture".

Proclamation presented to the **Upper Marlboro Young Marines** recognizing October 23-31, 2009, as "Red Ribbon Week" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to the Prince George's County FIRE/EMS Department, **Derian Whitted, Wesley Auld, Dave Wilson and Dale Giampetroni**, recognizing their "Outstanding Public Service" to the citizens and residents of Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to **Germaine Timmermans**, a Greenbelt resident, recognizing November 2009 as "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to the **Bowie State University Men's Cross Country Team**, recognizing the team as the "2009 CIAA Cross Country Champions" from Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to the **Bowie State University Women's Cross Country Team** for their accomplishments.

Proclamation presented to **Destiny Adams** for being named the Miss America "2010 Miss Historic Maryland's Outstanding Teen" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to the **Prince George's Citizens Corps Council** recognizing the "Outstanding Contributions" in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to **Angelica Simpson-Marcus**, Principal, recognizing Largo High School as meeting the "Adequate Yearly Progress" goal in Prince George's County.

Proclamation presented to **Carlton Carter**, Principal, recognizing Dr. Ernest Everett Just Middle School as meeting the "Adequate Yearly Progress" goal in Prince George's County.

District 9 Rural Tier Tour

The Prince George's County Council has proposed a wide range of legislation to establish a comprehensive policy on agricultural preservation in the Rural Tier, including the creation of an Agricultural Preservation Work Group to review and evaluate preservation policies, and offer recommendations to the Council regarding appropriate revisions to existing policies and laws.



Council Chairperson Bland, for the sixth straight year, hosted over a hundred planning professionals, area preservationists, and community members for the 2009 Annual "District 9 Rural Tier Tour." The guided boat tours of the Potomac River depart from the National Harbor Marina and include a question and answer session at the National Colonial Farm, an outdoor living history museum.



"There are a number of residents who have expressed an interest in future development of the Rural Tier and its impact on the watersheds," said Chairperson Bland. "This tour provides the opportunity to see firsthand, the beautiful character of the Rural Tier and future development options addressed in the General Plan."



Tour speakers included Alice Ferguson Foundation Deputy Director, Libby Campbell; Accokeek Foundation President, Willton Corkern; Piscataway Wastewater Treatment Plant Director, Dale Bleschner; Accokeek Civic Association President, William Robinson; Historic Preservation Commission Chairman, David Turner; and other stakeholders and community activists.



The Rural Tier encompasses approximately 32% of Prince George's County's total land area, and is characterized by extensive woodlands; numerous streams; most of the County's remaining farmland; and a diverse wildlife habitat. A large portion of the Potomac River and its watersheds, partially located in the Rural Tier, are located in District Nine.



RULES OF COURTESY

We welcome and encourage your interest and involvement in the process of representative government. To ensure fair and orderly meetings, the Council has adopted rules which apply to all Members of the Council, administrative staff, news media, citizens and visitors. The procedures provide:

- No one shall delay or interrupt the proceedings or refuse to obey the orders of the presiding officer.
- Posters or Placards must remain outside the Council Hearing Room.
- No smoking is permitted in the County Administration Building.
- Citizens are admitted up to the Fire Safety capacity of the Hearing Room. Overflow crowds may listen to proceedings on loudspeakers provided in the lobby area.
- The use of cellular phones is prohibited in the Hearing Room.

COUNTY COUNCIL SESSIONS

The following information is provided as a guide to public participation in the Council Meeting. When you are called by the presiding officer, please follow these steps:

- Come forward to the speaker's podium and state your name and address.
- Relax.
- Present your comments as succinctly as possible. Avoid duplicate testimony.
- Confine your remarks to three minutes, if the presiding officer has indicated time limits would be in effect.
- If you have a written statement, give it and other supporting material to the Clerk.

Public Participation in Council Meetings

Prince George's County Council Sessions are formal proceedings and all comments are recorded for public record. Members of the audience are provided an opportunity to address the Council prior to the close of each meeting. Participation is also welcomed during the public hearing process. Those wishing to testify during the public hearing are urged to telephone the Clerk's office at 301-952-3600 for placement on the advance speakers' list. Registrations are also accepted in the hearing room.

Accessibility

In accordance with ADA Requirements, accommodations for hearing impaired, disabled persons and the visually impaired can be provided upon reasonable notice to the Clerk of the Council. Sign language interpreters and wireless receivers are also available with advance notice by calling (301) 952-3600/TDD 1(800) 735-2258. In the event of inclement weather, please call (301) 952-4810 to confirm the status of County Business.

2009 COUNCIL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTY COUNCIL JOINS THE CALL FOR “NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE” VOLUNTEERS

The Prince George’s County Council encourages county citizens and residents to contribute their time, talent and goodwill by volunteering for local community causes on Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 19, 2009, “The National Day of Service.” Council Members are joining the national call for all Americans to make an ongoing commitment to volunteerism and community service. This year, the Dr. King Holiday – a federally designated day of volunteer service – will fall on Monday, January 19, the day before President-Elect Obama is sworn-in as the 44th President of the United States of America.

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE GIVE LOCAL MINORITY BUSINESSES A NEW YEAR’S BOOST

Local and minority-owned businesses in Prince George’s County will begin 2009 with a greater ability to share in the wealth generated by major projects in the county as a result of the County Council’s recent adoption of a \$35-million bond bill for National Harbor, which has been signed by County Executive Jack Johnson. Council approval of the bond legislation, CR-23-2008 on November 18, was achieved only after successful negotiations with The Peterson Companies, developer of the \$4-billion National Harbor project, to create more opportunities for participation in the project by local and minority-owned businesses.

COUNTY COUNCIL SPONSORS BUSINESS CERTIFICATION BRIEFING TO SUPPORT SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

The Prince George’s County Council will sponsor an informational session focusing on new opportunities for local, small and minority-owned businesses on Friday, March 27, 2009. CR-23-2008, bond legislation adopted by the Council, creates additional opportunities for local small and minority-owned business participation in the \$4-billion National Harbor project by local and minority-owned businesses. The agreement between the County and National Harbor developer, The Peterson Companies, commits the developer to award a minimum 15-percent of new construction work to minority contractors in the County.

OFFICIAL COUNTY TREE WORK GROUP TELLS COUNCIL WILLOW OAK IS “BEST CHOICE” FOR PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY

The Official County Tree Work Group, established by Council Resolution 27-2008, has recommended the Willow Oak to replace the Bradford Pear as the Official Tree for Prince George’s County. The Work Group presented its Official County Tree Report to the County Council, during a briefing on April 28, 2009.

PRINCE GEORGE’S AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAWMAKERS ADOPT BI-COUNTY BUDGETS

Meeting in an annual joint session on Thursday, May 7, 2009, the Prince George’s and Montgomery County councils unanimously adopted the Fiscal Year 2010 operating and capital bi-county budgets for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC); Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC); and Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC). The FY’ 10 budgets become effective July 1, 2009.

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSIONERS SWORN-IN

The Prince George’s County Youth Commissioners for the 2009-2010 academic year were sworn into office on Thursday, May 28, 2009, in the Council Hearing Room of the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. Council Chairperson Marilyn M. Bland (D)-District 9, and the Prince George’s County Council, hosted the special ceremony, which was attended by parents, school administrators, friends and other esteemed guests. Peggy Magee, Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County, administered the Oath of Office. Chairperson Bland briefly spoke to the Youth Commissioners, charging them to be an example to their friends and classmates. “I hope that you will continue to advocate for the youth in your schools and in your communities.”

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY ADOPTS 2.6 BILLION FY’10 BUDGET

The Prince George’s County Council, during session on Monday, June 1, 2009, voted unanimously, to adopt a \$2.6 billion balanced Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010. The FY’10 budget becomes effective with the new Fiscal Year, which begins on July 1, 2009. The new budget represents a smaller government, spending \$73 million less than in the previous year. Council Chairperson Marilyn M. Bland (D) – District 9, praised the Council for its tenacity in adopting a balanced budget, while facing the most adverse financial conditions in the history of the County and Charter Government. “This budget reflects significant work by all involved in this year’s discussions and negotiations. There were many tough decisions that had to be made in order to adopt this spending plan and I could not be more proud to serve alongside my Council colleagues than I have been throughout this process. In the face of a terrible financial storm they have acted responsibly and responsively on behalf of the citizens we serve.”

COUNCIL CELEBRATES COUNTY’S JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

The Prince George’s County Council invites County families to participate in the Annual Juneteenth Celebration with the unanimous adoption of CR-36-2009 during Council session on Tuesday, June 16, 2009. Council Member Samuel H. Dean (D)-District 6, proposed the Resolution to express support for the Juneteenth National Holiday Campaign, and encourage Prince George’s County residents to participate in the Annual Juneteenth Celebration to be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009.

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY COUNCIL IN COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS ACT

The Prince George’s County Council has been found to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act by the State of Maryland Open Meetings Compliance Board, after a complaint filed by the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 89. The Open Meetings Act requires that public business be discussed in an open and public manner and citizens be given the opportunity to observe public officials and the public policy process. “Maintaining openness in our governance is paramount,” said Council Chairperson Marilyn Bland (D) – District 9. “Every decision made is done so in an open and honest manner and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Our ‘Core Values’ pledge this Council to foster partnerships and encourage public participation with our citizens which is the only way to ensure the transparent government to which this Council is committed.”

COUNCIL MEMBERS CO-HOST PRINCE GEORGE’S GREENFEST

Prince George’s County Council Vice-Chair Thomas E. Dernoga (D) – District 1, along with Council Members Will Campos (D) – District 2, Eric Olson (D) – District 3, Ingrid Turner (D) – District 4, Andrea Harrison (D), District 5, Samuel Dean (D) – District 6 and Chairperson Marilyn Bland (D) – District 9, have joined together to co-host “Prince George’s GreenFest,” a community festival designed to educate citizens on the benefits of going green.

COUNTY COUNCIL ENACTS NEW PAWNSHOP LEGISLATION

The Prince George’s County Council, meeting on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, unanimously voted to enact Council Bill 38-2009, legislation banning the pawning of health and beauty related products, infant formula, over-the-counter medications, and other consumable items that are ingested or used on the body.

NEW LAW MEANS CHANGES FOR COUNTY’S CHECK-CASHING BUSINESSES

The Prince George’s County Council voted 5-to-4 to enact Council Bill-23-2009, legislation requiring a Special Exception for new check-cashing businesses opening in Prince George’s County. The legislation enacted during Council Session on Tuesday, November 17, also limits hours of operation and requires added or enhanced security features.

CHANGE

That Meets Our Challenges



"Change That Meets Our Challenges," is a half-hour cable television program produced by the Prince George's County Council and hosted by 2009 Legislative Year Council Chairperson Marilyn M. Bland. Focusing on community challenges and ways to effectively address them, "Change that Meets Our Challenges" encouraged civic participation, accountability and forward thinking.

The program aired on Government and Public Affairs Channel 70, Community Television of Prince George's – an award-winning, non-profit cable access facility serving as the media hub of information for Prince George's County. "Change That Meets Our Challenges" aired monthly from April to November 2009 and featured in-depth conversations with a host of distinguished guests.

The Honorable Herman C. Dawson – Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge

The premiere edition of "Change That Meets Our Challenges" featured a conversation with Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge Herman C. Dawson. The segment focused on the challenge of avoiding foreclosures, and the Prince George's County Circuit Court Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program.

Prince George's County Youth Commissioners
Edward Burroughs – Crossland High School
David Murray – Eleanor Roosevelt High School
Shanita Williams – Dr. Henry A. Wise High School

Chairperson Bland was pleased to welcome representatives from the Prince George's County Youth Commission to the set of "Change that Meets our Challenges" for a frank discussion on issues impacting young people – in the classroom and in the community. The Prince George's County Youth Commission, an initiative spearheaded by Chairperson Bland, was established in 2006 to provide high school students with an important educational tool to learn more about government; participate in the public policy process; and represent and articulate the needs of youth in the County.

Donald Shell M.D., Prince George's County Health Officer
Gloria Brooks, President and CEO, The People's Choice

The need for kidney screening and organ donation has the potential to save the lives of thousands of County residents at risk for kidney disease, which can be caused by hypertension and diabetes. With this thought in mind, Chairperson Bland turned to County Health Officer Dr. Donald Shell and District 9 constituent and organ donor Gloria Brooks in a half-hour discussion focused on the critical issue of organ and tissue donation.

The Honorable Jack B. Johnson
County Executive
The Honorable Camille Exum
Council Member, District 7

For a special budget edition of "Change That Meets Our Challenges," Chairperson Bland invited Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson and Council colleague Camille Exum, the County's foremost budget experts, for an in-depth discussion on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget process. TRIM; Prince George's County's share of stimulus dollars; economic development and the County's Triple-A bond rating were among the topics explored.

The Honorable Thomas Dernoga,
Vice-Chair, County Council, District 1
The Honorable Samuel H. Dean
Council Member, District 6
The Honorable Eric Olson
Council Member, District 3

Chairperson Bland welcomed her Council colleagues to the set of "Change That Meets Our Challenges" for a segment on local governance. Vice-Chair Dernoga discussed his Council experience; economic development in District 1; and recently adopted legislation targeting adult book and video stores. Council Member Dean talked with Chairperson Bland about his advocacy for local, minority and small business enterprises and their participation in major development projects. Council Member Olson discussed his work as Vice-Chair of the Council's Planning Zoning and Economic Development (PZED) Committee, as well as his involvement with the Youth and Gang Violence Task Force.

Ms. Sophia Allen, Survivor/Thrifer of Domestic Violence
Elder Jeffrey Rustin, Believers Worship Center "See the Other Side" Ministry
Harold A. King – Family Survivor of Domestic Violence

In recognition of October as Domestic Violence Month, Chairperson Bland invited local champions working on the frontlines to raise public awareness of this critical issue to join her on the set of "Change That Meets our Challenges." Elder Jeffery Rustin, of The Believers Worship Center Church and Director of their "See the Other Side Re-entry Program," discussed his personal experience with domestic violence as a person in recovery.

Mr. Harold King, a 21-year County resident and member of the Revenue Authority, also shared his personal experience as a family survivor of domestic violence. The final guest, Ms. Sophia Allan, shared her inspirational story as a survivor and thriver of domestic violence.

Penny Mendoza, Prince George's County Census Coordinator and Women's Commissioner
The Honorable Andrea Harrison
Council Member, District 5
The Honorable Will Campos
Council Member, District 2

The U.S. Census, taken only once every ten years, is used to allocate billions of dollars each year for community services including education, public safety, transportation and programs for seniors. Chairperson Bland and Prince George's County Census Coordinator Penny Mendoza embraced the rare opportunity to discuss the 2010 Census efforts and the importance of being counted, particularly in Prince George's County. Council colleagues Andrea Harrison and Will Campos were Chairperson Bland's guests for the second half of the program. Viewers were treated to a personal profile of Districts 5 and 2 from their respective Council Members, as well as recently proposed legislation and District priorities.

Dr. Frederick Douglas Clark, DDS
The Honorable Ingrid Turner
Council Member, District 4
The Honorable Tony Knotts
Council Member, District 8

Community and elected leaders working to improve the quality of life in Prince George's County was the topic of discussion for the final edition of "Change That Meets Our Challenges." Dr. Frederick Douglas Clark and Chairperson Bland discussed his work to ensure that young people and others without resources have access to the dental care they need. Council colleague Ingrid Turner, a champion in the local fight against childhood obesity, shared her thoughts on the impact of overall wellness on student achievement. Council colleague Tony Knotts discussed his advocacy work for speed cameras in the County.



COUNTY COUNCIL ON-THE-AIR

Programs produced by the Prince George's County Council may be viewed by the public on Prince George's County Government and Public Affairs Channels:

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMCAST VERIZON
 Channel 70 Channel 41

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COMMUNITY TELEVISION
COMCAST VERIZON
 Channel 76 Channel 42

Chair of the County Council Show

The County Council cable show is hosted by the presiding Council Chair and airs Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. and again 8:30 p.m. on the Government and Public Affairs channel. The show also airs on the Community Television channel on Monday at 11:30 a.m. and again on Friday at 10:30 a.m.

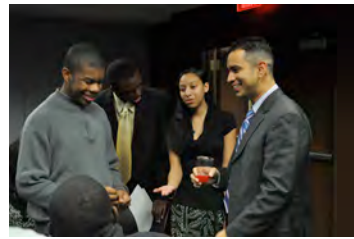
District Council Session

District Council Session is held the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month and airs on CTV the corresponding Monday at 7 p.m. and Tuesday at noon.

County Council Session

The County Council Session is held every Tuesday and airs at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday at noon and 7:00 p.m. and Thursday at 12 p.m.

Prince George's County Youth Commission



The Prince George's County Youth Commission in a special Council sponsored event, "Chat and Chew". Members of the Youth Commission are high school student leaders who participate in the governmental process and advocate on behalf of the other County youth sharing the youth perspective with the County Council and County Executive. Council Chair Marilyn Bland is a strong supporter of the Youth Commission established in 2006.

"I hope that you will continue to advocate for the youth in your schools and in your communities. You are the Youth Commissioners for our County and that means something. We are depending on you to be the 'voice' for young people in our County—we want to hear what you have to say."—Chairperson Marilyn Bland, May 28, 2009

The Prince George's County Youth Commissioners for the 2009-2010 academic year were sworn into office on Thursday, May 28, 2009. The official ceremony, hosted by Council Chairperson Marilyn Bland and her Council colleagues, took place in the Council Hearing Room of the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. Parents, school administrators, friends and other esteemed guests were present in support of the young leaders as they took the Oath of Office administered by the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County.

The 35-member Youth Commission, an initiative spearheaded by Council Chairperson Bland, was established in 2006 by legislation, CB-19-2006. Creation of the Youth Commission provided County high school students with a vehicle for learning more about governmental processes; participating in public policy



dialogue; and representing and articulating the needs of young people in Prince George's County.

Youth Commissioners, ages 15 to 18, are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. They are selected to represent each public and private high school in the County, and must have demonstrated a sincere interest in community service.

Youth Commissioners meet regularly throughout the year.

Message from the Honorable Thomas E. Dernoga, 2010 Legislative Year Chair

I am honored and humbled by the great faith this Council has continued to place in my ability to lead...choosing once again to entrust the Gavel of Leadership to me. I thank each of them for their expression of support, enthusiasm, and eagerness to be advocates for the people yet again. They live out the directive of Proverbs 31:8, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." If our efforts are crowned by accomplishment, as I expect, it will be because of this team's hard work and energy—our passion and commitment to the citizens we serve.

Prince George's County has a rich history of great leaders who have been assigned this gavel, including former Council Chairs Tony Knotts, Samuel Dean, Camille Exum, Marilyn Bland, and State Senator David Harrington. When I reflect upon the deep and abiding commitment to the success of our County that we all share, this moment becomes even more meaningful. A solid foundation has been laid with their steady leadership and I am committed to continue their good work.

I am excited and inspired to accept this gavel from former Chairperson Marilyn Bland, for whom I have a lot of admiration. She accepted the challenge to lead through one of the most daunting times in the history of Prince George's County. I welcome the opportunity to work in tandem with each of my colleagues on this Council—Marilynn Bland, Will Campos, Samuel Dean, Camille Exum, Andrea Harrison, Tony Knotts, Eric Olson, and Ingrid Turner; our County Executive Jack Johnson; our State Legislature in Annapolis; the citizens we serve; and every stakeholder in Prince George's County as we continue on this remarkable journey to enhance our quality of life. This leg of the journey begins with the partnership with our new Vice-Chair Andrea Harrison—a lifelong resident of Prince George's County and her own District 5, who, prior to her election, served for more than 15 years as a community activist. She shares my deep passion for education, my zeal for civic and community activism, my desire to preserve and protect our environment, and my commitment to growth management and land use issues. I am delighted for the opportunity to work with my esteemed colleague and appreciate her affirmation of our values as advocates for the people.

I envision a Council in the coming year where we continue to work together in a spirit of cooperation. The tough economic times are continuing and the budget will need our full attention. However, despite the challenges in front of us, the additional issues facing Prince George's County - quality education, safe communities, housing, transportation, the environment, and appropriate land-use-- are too important to just "put on hold." Our committees, through which most Council work is accomplished, will be hard at work on housing solutions and the five-year Consolidated Plan, a collaborative process whereby a community establishes a unified vision for community development actions. Simply put, it will be our framework for assisting those who need affordable housing; improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods; and promoting job growth and economic development.

The Maryland Department of Environment has required that all counties create a Storm Water Management Policy and Plan to comply with the state's new Storm Water Management Ordinance enacted in 2007. The Council, which will ultimately review and approve the new standards for Storm Water Management, intends to create a plan exceeding the state's minimum standards, with the innovative use of green roofs, rain gardens, porous concrete, and more.

The Council's newly-established Taxicab Task Force will closely study the operation of taxi service and its impact on our residents and the industry stakeholders in the County. I want to thank former Chairperson Bland for her leadership on this issue. In the coming year, the Council will consider recommendations made by the Task Force to improve licensing, operating and regulating taxi service in the County. This Council, sitting as the District Council on land use issues, will also continue its review of County Zoning Ordinances. Proposals are now being sought by the Planning Department from qualified consultants to evaluate the effectiveness of Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to implement the policy recommendations of the General Plan, streamline the development review process, and rewrite the regulations in a user-friendly format. I am deeply grateful that Council Member Samuel Dean will lead the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee. Council Member Camille Exum will chair the Council's Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee. Transportation, Housing and the Environment will be headed by Council Member Eric Olson. My colleague from District Four, Council Member Ingrid Turner will take charge of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, and former Chairperson Marilyn Bland will lend her leadership skills to Rules and General Assembly efforts. There is much more to be done of course, but the direction is clear. Working together we can shape, create, and invent the future of Prince George's County. That is our opportunity and our challenge. It will be our legacy.



Sworn in December 2009



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